

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows.

On page 2, after the paragraph ending on line 17, please insert the following paragraph:

The plasmid-free Escherichia coli strain DSM 6601 of this invention was deposited on September 14, 2004, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, in the German Collection for Microorganisms, DSMZ Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 Braunschweig, Germany, and granted the accession number of DSM 16700 .